

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay. The examiner has indicated that the case contains allowable subject matter.

The specification has been amended to eliminate some minor obvious errors and to describe the drawing with three figures as it now stands. The amendments to the specification have been undertaken by the undersigned who is an experienced translator of technical German and certifies that they accurately reflect the original German text. An Abstract corresponding to US Rules has also been submitted. No new matter whatsoever has been added.

The main claim has been amended to clarify that the filter elements travel angularly with the wheel as is clear from the description and the prior art.

Original claim 3 of this case is accurately translated as follows, it being regretfully admitted that the originally filed translation was as accurate as it could have been:

3. The melt filter according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that a spacing between filter elements (8) against which flow engages and the filter-element changing station (7) is bigger than or equal to the width of a filter element (8) and a spoke (11) and smaller than

the width of two filter elements (8, 8') and a spoke (11).

Claim 8 has been amended to more accurately reflect the original disclosure as rendered in original claim 3. This overcomes the §112 objection to claim 8.

Claims 11-14 have also been amended to more accurately disclose with what was originally claimed. Again, no new matter has been added.

The instant invention is aimed at a melt filter that is particularly useful for very dirty plastic melts where the filter must be changed frequently. It is not aimed at a backflush filter such as in US 6,325,922 of Schaller which costs about 1.5 times as much as a straight throughflow filter according to this invention.

With the Schaller filter at most 30% of the filter surface can be used for filtering the plastic melt. The rest of the filter surface actually is partly in the backflushing station, partly in the seal area between the throughflow filtering region and the backflushing station, and partly in the filter-changing station. This 30% of useful area represents in Schaller three spaces defined between angularly adjacent spokes.

Column 4, lines 54ff of Schaller state:

A plurality of cavities are usually in contact with the melt flow. The number of cavities that are in contact

with the melt flow will depend upon the desired filtering characteristics. Preferably, there are three cavities 2 that are in effective contact with the melt channel 44 at any one time. The filter wheel 1 is turned step-by-step during operation to exchange filter elements in contact with the melt flow as discussed in more detail below. Of the three cavities in the effective position, two continue to be in connection with the melt channel 44 (see FIG. 3), albeit in a changed position, while a fresh screening element is added.

Hence the Schaller system is not very efficient because of the three separate functions - filtering, backflushing, and changing - taking place, and the seals that must be provided between these stations and in particular at the changing station.

Nothing in Schaller suggests the spacing as clearly defined in claim 8, now amended to reflect the original disclosure from claim 3 more accurately. In fact it is impossible to actually determine the dimension of the Schaller filter-changing station, so that a rejection on Schaller is going inherently to be based on guesswork. FIG. 2 of this reference is not clear enough to allow any idea of dimensions to be gained.

The reason the dimensions are critical is that workers are actually opening up the equipment at the melt-changing temperature, in which the viscous melt moving at high temperature is under a pressure as much as 300 bar. Unless the filter-changing station is effectively separated from the region of high pressure

where the melt is traversing the filter-carrying wheel, serious injuries could occur. Thus the separation of at least one filter width plus one spoke with and at most two filter widths and two spoke widths is important and critical to the invention.

For these reasons the claims as they now stand clearly define over the cited art. Allowance of all claims is in order.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

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